



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Social Science Caucus

---

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Fawziyah Isah, SRA Social Science  
SUBJECT: SRA 18F Report  
DATE: Tuesday, October 9, 2018

---

### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Our caucus is excited to have had a solid start to the school year. We've had a good amount of progress in our year plan, and are hopeful to continue to achieve steady progress. We've kept up our social media presence on facebook, keeping consistent engagement with our constituents through engaging posts, our caucus giveaway as well as caucus introductions. We've sat in on meetings with the social science Experiential Education Office in order to hold open discussions about experiential opportunities for Social Science students, as well as the office's plans for the year. We will further breakdown our updates throughout the report.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

#### *Charging Stations*

Getting charging stations on campus is a project that Shemar began at the end of his previous SRA term and has continued into this term. He has ordered the first station, which is already in MUSC atrium and the next 6 stations should be coming within a few weeks. The tentative locations of the remaining stations are: Mary Keyes Lobby, 1280, Clubspace, 3rd floor MUSC (near the nap room), JHE Lobby and one of the libraries. There has been difficulty in communicating with the chosen company of the charging stations. However after speaking with Scott (VP Finance), and making a few more calls, it's been confirmed that the units will be delivered in the next two week. We will continue to keep everyone updated on the status as we move forward.

#### *Improving the integration of Social Science Students and the Faculty Society*

Our caucus has begun holding office hours with the McMaster Social Science Society (MSSS). Cooperating and working with the MSSS will allow the SRA Social Science and the MSSS to give our constituents the representation and experience they deserve. Our hope is that SRA and Faculty society integration will help fill the gaps in the social science experience, by pooling together our resources and information. We look forward to seek further opportunities to work together this semester.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

### *Mentorship Program*

While not included in our year plan, our faculty society and our caucus have developed a mentorship program for social science students. A few years ago, our society had a mentorship program in place, but since then it has been dissolved. As its been many years since that

program was up and running, we haven't been able to figure out what exactly went wrong and why the program stopped over the years. With our partners at the MSSS, specifically the President and the VP Academic, we have discussed what the program should look like and we currently have the applications opening at the end of October. We are working from the ground up on this project, so everything is going to be done through trial and error, but we are very excited to see this come to fruition!

### *Increased Feedback and Engagement from Students*

We collaborated with our society in releasing an introductory survey to students at the beginning of the term. A few of the results are as follows:

- 53.85% of students said they knew who the SRA was.
- 67.82% of respondents stated that they either felt the SRA was either not useful or didn't feel the question was applicable to them.

A student also left a comment stating that they would like to see our caucus advocating for more social science centred issues, such as increasing the amount employment opportunities within our discipline. We as a caucus don't take this lightly and have heard students' concerns. We will be discussing ways to ensure we are being transparent with our constituents.

We are also planning to run an event this semester, centred around facilitating conversation with, as well as gaining feedback from social science students.

### *Hiring Board for Welcome Week*

Last year, Shemar sat on the Welcome Week planner hiring board and it is something he looks forward to doing again this year. After speaking with our faculty society President, they have agreed that getting an external representative for the hiring committee is a necessity and they have gotten WW2018 faculty coordinator Josh Marando to sit on the hiring board for WW planners. Hopefully having someone who is removed from our faculty as a whole will reduce the concerns currently in place surrounding bias within our faculty.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Some challenges that our caucus is currently facing is ensuring that all social science students have access to the joint humanities and social science lounge in the basement of LR Wilson. Our caucus is currently trying to figure out the best and most efficient way to ensure access, and we will continue to contact the appropriate people to ensure this goal is fulfilled.

### **SUCSESSES**

#### *Giveaway*

During the first week of school, our caucus ran an SRA giveaway which helped us raise the amount of likes on our Facebook page. We gained just over 170 new followers during the week and had very high engagement on each of our posts. Despite a low amount of new likes on the page, we are still happy that our posts had very high engagement! All of our students received their prizes and we may run something similar following winter break!

### **OTHER**

Our caucus is excited to accomplish our year plan and continue to adapt and improve our approach to new situations and challenges. Feel free to reach out to us on Facebook and Twitter if you have any question or comments!

Best,

*Fawziyah Isah*

Fawziyah  
SRA Social Sciences Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union  
[srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca)